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COMMUNIST CHINA - US: Peking's latest denunciation of US actions in Indochina breaks no new ground, but continues its exploitation of "anti-superpower" sentiment to enhance China's international standing in Asia and elsewhere.

The anti-US phase of this campaign, evident since the US incursion into Cambodia last spring, has been largely confined to routine propaganda but has nevertheless resulted in a general hardening of Peking's diplomatic stance vis-a-vis Washington.

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[Redacted] [Redacted]
[Redacted] This strongly suggests that Peking sees little likelihood of an early resumption of the Warsaw talks. Chinese propaganda, however, continues to avoid bilateral issues dividing Washington and Peking, indicating that China has not closed the door to an eventual resumption of Sino-US contacts. [Redacted]

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UGANDA: Kampala and the rest of the country are calm and there are now no signs of serious resistance to General Amin's coup.

The situation is still fluid, however. Although Amin appears to enjoy a substantial measure of popular support for his ouster of President Obote and seems to hold the initiative, he has revealed few plans for the new government. At a press conference yesterday Amin did say there would be a reshuffle of the government, but that he hoped some of the former senior officials would continue in the new government. He also expressed his intent to maintain good relations with the "East African community," a statement apparently aimed at reassuring the governments of Kenya and Tanzania.

There is still some question as to his ability to control the army. None of the other senior army officers has yet been identified as a participant in the coup. There have been no reports of clashes among military units since Tuesday night, but there have been instances of unruliness by intoxicated soldiers in Kampala and at Entebbe airport. Interior Minister Bataringaya, a key figure in the Obote regime, is reported to have been dragged from a Kampala hotel yesterday and beaten.

Obote is now in Tanzania. At a press conference staged for him by the Tanzanians, he said he intends to return to Uganda, a move that seems unlikely at the present time. He further claimed that "foreign forces" were behind the coup, specifically pointing to the Israelis, who have advisers within the Uganda military. An Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman has termed the accusation "utter nonsense."

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CZECHOSLOVAKIA-USSR: Party leader Husak and Premier Strougal apparently had a harmonious meeting with Brezhnev and Kosygin in Moscow on Monday.

Included in the talks were the Soviet and Czechoslovak party secretaries in charge of relations with ruling Communist parties, an indication that bilateral ties were in the forefront. A Soviet report on the meeting referred to the friendship and cordiality between the delegations, and alleged full identity of views on all matters discussed.

The report said that the Soviets talked about preparations for their 24th party congress and about "prospects" for the new five-year plan. These matters are of importance to the Czechoslovaks because Husak wants to have a party congress this year and Prague is bound by treaty to coordinate its economic planning with Moscow. The wording of the report suggests that details of the Soviet economic plan still may not be ready, thus delaying the Czechoslovaks in their own planning. Ways to improve efficiency of cooperation and specialization of production were also discussed.

Husak talked about the political situation in Czechoslovakia, beginning with the recently adopted official assessment of developments in the country in the last five years. This document, which re-writes recent Czechoslovak history to coincide with Husak's middle-of-the-road policies, will probably be the basis for a forward-looking party program to be adopted at the next Czechoslovak congress. It also contained the first official justification of the 1968 invasion, which no doubt strengthens Soviet confidence in the Czechoslovak regime.

West Germany was discussed, and the Soviets again gave their approval to Prague's coming negotiations with Bonn. The Soviets and Czechoslovaks reaffirmed their position that the 1938 Munich pact, and all its consequences, were invalid from the beginning.

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UNITED KINGDOM: Britain's unemployment rate jumped to three percent at mid-January as the number of jobless exceeded 690,000 for the first time since March 1963. This level is unusually high for the UK, where domestic economic policy has traditionally focused on sustaining employment. Thus far, a limited recovery in economic growth, which began in the second half of 1970, has not stemmed the upward trend in unemployment. Confronted with rapidly rising wages and prices, the government will find it difficult to take strong measures to encourage further economic expansion.

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SINGAPORE-MALAYSIA: Malaysia-Singapore Airlines, which remained one of the few joint enterprises between the two countries after Singapore was ejected from the federation in 1965, has broken up. Although Singapore and Malaysia have a number of sharp political differences, the breakup of the joint airline seems based on economic rather than political motives. Kuala Lumpur, in order to improve communications, is at present insistent on building up domestic routes, some of which require subsidies. Singapore logically prefers to concentrate on the lucrative international traffic.

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OCAM: The annual conference of the 15 chiefs of state of the Afro-Malagasy and Mauritian Common Organization (OCAM) opens today in Fort-Lamy, Chad. This Paris-inspired grouping of basically moderate French-speaking states has so far served as a fairly effective, if unspectacular, vehicle for effecting loose cooperation. This year's summit is expected to be enlivened by discussion of Ivory Coast President Houphouet-Boigny's controversial call for a peaceful dialogue between the new African countries and South Africa. Possibly in anticipation of this, President Ahidjo of Cameroon--a prestigious member of the organization who has publicly opposed the proposal--will not attend the meeting. Most other OCAM members are equally cool to the idea and favor a continuing boycott of Pretoria.

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